NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS OF *CYPERUS DRUMMONDII* (CYPERACEAE) FROM TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Recent collections of *Cyperus drummondii* Torr & Hook. from Texas coastal prairies known as "Nash Prairie" and "Bailey's Prairie" are reported along with ecological notes and a synopsis of its Texas distribution.

RESUMEN

Se citan colectas recientes de *Cyperus drummondii* Torr & Hook. de las praderas costeras de Texas conocidas como "Nash Prairie" y "Bailey's Prairie". Se añaden notas ecológicas notes y una sinopsis de su distribución en Texas.

Carter et al. (1999) recognized *Cyperus drummondii* Torr. & Hook. as distinct from *C. virens* Michx. and provided maps of the distribution of both taxa in the southeastern United States. *Cyperus drummondii* has been scarcely collected in Texas. Beside the type collection by Thomas Drummond, Denton (1978) reported only two other collections from Texas, *Cory 50890* (US) and *Hall s.n.* (F). In addition to these, Carter et al. (1999) reported *Jones 719* (US). In Texas, this taxon appears to be rare and restricted to the upper portion of the Gulf Prairies and Marshes as defined by Gould (1975). Recently, while conducting surveys of botanical resources on private property in Brazoria County, collections of *Cyperus drummondii* were made from populations encountered on large tracts of moderately disturbed to relatively undisturbed coastal prairie. These collections fill gaps in the distribution of this poorly understood taxon. Since pertinent works (Torrey 1836; Kükenthal 1935–1936; Denton 1978; Carter et al. 1999; Tucker et al. 2003) include scant information on the distribution and ecology of *C. drummondii* in Texas, the following notes and synopsis of its distribution are provided.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Specimens were easily distinguished from *C. virens* by key characters and diagrams provided by Carter et al. (1999). Upon critical examination, the ratio of achene length to scale length is sufficient to separate the taxa. *Cyperus drummondii* is also taller, has fewer and shorter primary inflorescence bracts, and

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fewer sessile to sub-sessile primary peduncles. As Carter et al. (1999) suggested these characters are best observed in the field.

Habitat

Cyperus drummondii was rare to locally common in poorly drained, fine sandy loam and clayey soils of prairie depressions mapped as Edna fine sandy loam (Crenwelge et al. 1981). These large tracts were topographically intact as was evident by numerous pimple mounds. A composite list of closely associated species for all sites includes: *Axonopus fissifolius* (Raddi) Kuhlmann, *Boltonia diffusa* Ell., *Croton capitatus* Michx. var. *lindheimeri* (Engelm. & Gray) Müll., *Cyperus entrerianus* Boeck., *C. haspan* L., *Diodia virginiana* L., *Eryngium yuccifolium* Michx., *Helianthus angustifolius* L., *Hydrolea ovata* Nutt. ex Choisy, *Juncus brachycarpus* Engelm., *Leersia hexandra* Sw., *Ludwigia linearis* Walt., *Panicum hemitomon* Schult., *P. hians* Ell., *P. virgatum* L., *Paspalum floridanum* Michx. var. *floridanum*, *P. plicatulum* Michx., *Polygonum hydropiperoides* Michx., *Rhynchospora caduca* Ell., *R. corniculata* (Lam.) Gray, *R. indianolensis* Small, *Rudbeckia nitida* Nutt. var. *texana* Perdue, *Sesbania drummondii* (Rydb.) Cory, *Solidago tortifolia* Ell., *Tridens strictus* (Nutt.) Nash, *Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L., and *Vernonia missurica* Raf.

Specimens examined. **TEXAS. Brazoria Co.:** Nash Ranch; hay meadow W of CR 25, about 8.7 mi N of its intersection with Hwy. 35 in West Columbia, 25 Aug 2003, *Rosen & Carr 2590* (SBSC, TAES), and 19 Sep 2003, *Rosen 2631* (TEX, VSC); Nash Ranch. Head of the Creek Pasture W of Hwy. 35, about 2.7 mi S of its intersection with FM 1462 in Damon, 25 Aug 2003, *Rosen & Carr 2605*, (BRIT, VSC); Bailey's Prairie; W of FM 521, approximately .4 mi SW of its intersection with Hwy. 35, W of Angleton, 17 Dec 2003, *Rosen & Lange 2684* (MICH, VSC). **Goliad Co.:** 8 mi S of Coleto Creek, S of Victoria on Hwy. 77, hydric roadside ditch, frequent, 06 Jan 1988 *Jones 719* (TAES). **Harris Co.:** Houston, 1872, *Hall s n.* (F, mixed with *Cyperus virens*). **Orange Co.:** Growing in shallow water, 6.5 mi W of Orange, 16 Nov 1945 *Cory 50890* (LL).

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